

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 003848

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MANILA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PDIP, SHUM, PINT, APER, PCAT, KS, US

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - KOREA

TO: EA - MR. GLEYSTEN

FROM: EA/K - ROBERT G. RICH, JR.

1. DEVELOPMENTS IN THE TONGSUN PARK CASE (CONFIDENTIAL) -
WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED A DIRECT REQUEST FROM CHAIRMAN FLYNT
OF THE HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT
FOR COMMITTEE ACCESS TO TONGSUN PARK COMPARABLE TO THAT
REACHED FOR THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT. WE ARE CAREFULLY
CONSIDERING HOW WE SHOULD RESPOND TO THIS REQUEST.

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THE SEVEN-PERSON INTERROGATION TEAM, HEADED BY ACTING DEPUTY
ATTORNEY GENERAL CIVILETTI WILL ARRIVE IN SEOUL JANUARY 8
TO COMMENCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE U.S.-ROK AGREEMENT
ON THE INTERROGATION OF TONGSUN PARK, AND HIS SUBSEQUENT
TESTIMONY IN U.S. COURT CASES. THE TEAM WILL BE ACCOMPANIED
BY AN OBSERVER FROM THE SENATE ETHICS COMMITTEE STAFF.

2. END OF YEAR PRISONER RELEASES (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) -
ON DECEMBER 31, THE ROKG RELEASED THE FIVE MYONGDONG
PRISONERS WHO WERE STILL IN PRISON. FORMER PRESIDENTIAL

CANDIDATE KIM TAE-CHUNG REMAINS UNDER GUARD IN SEOUL
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL, WHERE HE WAS MOVED DECEMBER
19 FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT. THE RELEASE CULMINATED A COM-
PLEX NEGOTIATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND DISSIDENT
LEADERS ON ACCEPTABLE LANGUAGE FOR A STATEMENT REPORTEDLY
SIGNED BY THE PRISONERS TO EFFECT THEIR RELEASE. THE
ACTING SECRETARY RELEASED A STATEMENT WELCOMING THE
RELEASES AS THE LATEST IN A RECENT SERIES OF POSITIVE
ACTIONS BY KOREA AND OTHER STATES HOPEFULLY PRESAGING A
YEAR OF PROGRESS IN THE ENHANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

3. HUMAN RIGHTS COUNTRY EVALUATION PLAN (CEP)
(CONFIDENTIAL) - EMBASSY SEOUL HAS SENT US A NUMBER OF
USEFUL FACTUAL CORRECTIONS AND CAREFULLY SUPPORTED
SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGES TO THE LATEST VERSION OF THE CEP
FOR THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA. WE ARE AWAITING YOUR COMMENT
ON BOTH THE EMBASSY'S SUGGESTIONS AND THE PLAN ITSELF.

4. YI CHOL-SUNG VISIT TO THE U.S. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) -
WE ARE RECOMMENDING TO THE VICE PRESIDENT THAT HE
RECEIVE YI DURING THE NDP CHAIRMAN'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON,
JANUARY 25-30.
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5. ROK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS (UNCLASSIFIED) - THE KOREAN
FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE ROK AND THE
REPUBLIC OF GUINEA HAVE AGREED TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS
AT THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL. BY OUR INFORMAL COUNT,
101 STATES RECOGNIZE THE ROK AND 91 RECOGNIZE NORTH KOREA.
49 STATES RECOGNIZE BOTH KOREAS.

6. KOREA DESK PERSONNEL (UNCLASSIFIED) - WE HAVE
FORTUNATELY ACQUIRED THE SERVICES OF PAUL CLEVELAND, WHO
WILL BE ON THE DESK FOR A TEMPORARY PERIOD WORKING ON LONG-
RANGE POLICY PAPERS. CHRISTOPHER

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